

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A combination product comprising at least one oxidizing metal complex and at least one substrate containing an indoxyl derivative resulting in an insoluble colored compound for use simultaneously, separately or spread out over time, intended for the detection of bacteria:
2. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said substrate is selected from X-Gal, X-Phos, X-acglmn, Mag-Gal, Mag- $\alpha$ -Gal, and Mag-Phos, preferably X-Gal.
3. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal complex is ammoniacal iron citrate.
4. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal complex and said substrate are carried in an aqueous solvent at a concentration of between 3 and 900 mg/ml, preferably at 60 mg/ml, or an organic solvent at a concentration of between 100 mg/l and 50 g/l, particularly between 500 mg/l and 20 g/l, preferably at 10 g/l.
5. (Withdrawn) The combination product as claimed in claim 1, further comprising magnesium sulfate at a concentration of between 50 mM and 10 M, preferably 2 M, and/or at least one antibiotic.
6. (Withdrawn) A bacterial detection kit comprising a combination product as claimed in claim 1.
7. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of bacteria, comprising the following steps:

a) ~~a combination product as claimed in claim 1 added to a medium which may contain said bacteria cultured under anaerobic conditions~~ culturing bacteria in a medium under anaerobic conditions, the medium comprising an ammoniacal iron citrate or ferricyanide which allows the oxidative polymerization of an indoxyl chemical derivative and a substrate containing an indoxyl

chemical derivative selected from the group consisting of X-Gal, X-Phos, X-acglmn, Mag-Gal, Mag- $\alpha$ -Gal, and Mag-Phos to result in an insoluble colored compound,

b) ~~the appearance of a colored precipitate around the colonies (halo) and/or a color of the colonies is visualized~~ allowing the oxidative polymerization of the indoxyl chemical derivative to occur in the presence of the bacteria and ammoniacal iron citrate or ferricyanide; and

c) deleting the formation of a colored halo around the bacteria.

8. (Withdrawn) The use of an oxidizing metal complex for catalyzing the oxidative polymerization of indoxyl derivatives resulting in an insoluble colored compound.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in claim 8,~~ A method of catalyzing an oxidative polymerization of an indoxyl derivative to produce an insoluble colored compound comprising:

for improving the detection of the release of an indoxyl derivative by an enzyme from adding to a medium a substrate containing an indoxyl derivative, it being possible for said substrate to be a the substrate selected from the group consisting of X-Gal, X-Phos, X-acglmn, Mag-Gal, Mag- $\alpha$ -Gal, and Mag-Phos, preferably X-Gal so as to improve the detection of the release of the indoxyl derivative by an enzyme from the substrate; and

adding an oxidizing metal complex to the medium, the oxidizing metal complex selected from the group consisting of ammoniacal iron citrate and ferricyanide.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in method of claim 9, for wherein ammoniacal iron citrate and an X-Gal substrate are added to the medium to intensifying the a colored halo and/or for increasing-increase the a color of the colonies.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The use as claimed in method of claim 89,~~ further comprising:

selecting wherein an ammoniacal iron citrate as the oxidizing metal complex is ammoniacal iron citrate.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of a combination product as claimed in claim 1~~ method of claim 7, further comprising:

~~for the detection of~~detecting bacteria which possess an enzyme allowing for the release of ~~an~~the indoxyl derivative from ~~a~~the substrate containing ~~an~~the indoxyl derivative.